Amendment to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended)   A tablet feeder in which tablets are delivered from a tablet storage

case mounted on a case support table, and when the tablets are passed through a delivery passage

formed in the case support table, quantity of the passed tablets is counted by a counting means,

the tablet feeder comprising:

case detection means for outputting a detection signal from start of mounting of the tablet

storage case ~~on the case support table~~ before end of mounting of the table storage case, so that

the counting means is kept in ~~off~~ an OFF state until a start state of mounting of the tablet storage

case is detected by the case detection means and is set to ~~on~~ an ON state after the detection.

2. (Currently Amended)   The tablet feeder as defined in Claim 1, wherein the tablet storage

case is provided with an information display section for displaying information about tablets to

be stored, and the case support table is provided with identification means for detecting the

information display section, so that the identification means is kept in and OFF ~~off~~ state until a

start state of mounting of the tablet storage case is detected by the case detection means and is set

to ~~on~~ an ON state after detection.

3.(Currently Amended)   The tablet feeder as defined in Claim 1, wherein the counting

means is set to the ON ~~on~~ state based on the detection signal from the case detection means after

passing of noise influence time.

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4.(Previously Presented) The tablet feeder as defined in Claim 1, wherein the case detection means is capable of separately detecting a state from a start of mounting of the tablet storage case on the case support table to a middle of the mounting and a state from the middle of the mounting to an end of the mounting.

5. (New) A tablet feeder comprising:

at least one tablet storage case for housing a supply of tablets, said storage case having indicia that identifies the tablets housed in said storage case, and a metal plate; and

at least one case support table having a tablet delivery passage, said case support table having an identification sensor, a tablet counting sensor provided on the delivery passage to permit counting of a tablet passing therethrough, and a conductive pattern that permits detection of mounting and dismounting states of the storage case,

wherein the metal plate and the conductive pattern are located so that they come into contact immediately after the start of a mounting operation, and the counting sensor is immediately set to an ON state upon contact of the metal plate with the conductive pattern so that any tablet that is dropped from said tablet storage case during the mounting operation can be detected by the counting sensor during mounting of the storage case on the case support table.

6. (New) The tablet feeder as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a pair of guide sections disposed side by side on an upper surface of said case support table,

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wherein the identification sensor is provided on a surface of one of the guide sections and the conductive pattern is formed on a surface of the other of the guide sections.

7. (New) The tablet feeder as claimed in claim 6, further comprising a pair of guide reception sections disposed on a bottom surface of said tablet storage case, the guide reception sections being guided by the guide sections during mounting of said tablet storage case on said case support table,

wherein the indicia is provided on a surface of one of the guide reception sections so as to be detectable by the identification sensor, and the metal plate is provided on a surface of the other of the guide reception sections so as to contact the conductive pattern immediately upon the start of mounting of said tablet storage case on said case support table.

8. (New) A tablet feeder comprising:

at least one tablet storage case for housing a supply of tablets, said storage case having indicia that identifies the tablets housed in said storage case, and a metal plate; and

at least one case support table having a tablet delivery passage, said case support table having an identification sensor, a tablet counting sensor provided on the delivery passage to permit counting of a tablet passing therethrough, and a conductive pattern that permits detection of mounting and dismounting states of the storage case,

wherein the metal plate and the conductive pattern are located so that they come into contact after the start of a mounting operation, and the counting sensor is set to an ON state upon

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contact of the metal plate with the conductive pattern and after the passing of a noise influence

time so that any tablet that is dropped during the mounting operation can be detected by the

counting sensor during mounting of said tablet storage case on said case support table.

9. (New) The tablet feeder as claimed in claim 8, further comprising a pair of guide sections

disposed side by side on an upper surface of said case support table,

    wherein the identification sensor is provided on a surface of one of the guide sections and

the conductive pattern is formed on a surface of the other of the guide sections.

10. (New) The tablet feeder as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a pair of guide reception

sections disposed on a bottom surface of said tablet storage case, the guide reception sections

being guided by the guide sections during mounting of said tablet storage case on said case

support table,

    wherein the indicia is provided on a surface of one of the guide reception sections so as to

be detectable by the identification sensor, and the metal plate is provided on a surface of the other

of the guide reception sections so as to contact the conductive pattern immediately upon the start

of mounting of said tablet storage case on said case support table.